

A NEW SPECIES OF PUYA (BROMELIACEAE) FROM ECUADOR

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During preparation of the new Bromeliad Flora of Ecuador, it became evident that a specimen of Puya illustrated and identified as P. fastuosa Mez in Gilmartin (1972, The Bromeliaceae of Ecuador, Phan. Monog., Verlag, J. Cramer) is actually an undescribed species. The name, Puya retrorsa, is applied following the suggestion of Lyman B. Smith.

PUYA RETRORSA A. J. Gilmartin, spec. nov.

A P. fastuosa, cui affinis, bracteis primariis suborbicularibus, inflorescentia ad 45 cm longa, spinis foliorum retrorsis, differt.

Plant 2.0-3.0 m tall including inflorescence, ca. 2 m in diameter; leaves 40-60 cm long, blades 2.5-3.0 cm wide, flat, texture pliable to subcoriaceous when alive, spiny margined throughout the blade, silvery-green, narrowly triangular, glabrous above, densely lepidote below, erect to spreading, spines 6-8 mm long; scape erect, 2.5-3.0 cm in diameter; scape-bracts 10-12 cm by 1 cm, not imbricate, reflexed; inflorescence ca. 40-45 cm long by 10-12 cm in diameter, erect, cylindric to thyrsoid, brown wooly, bipinnate, dense, primary bracts 4.0-4.5 cm long, a few up to 8 cm long including the long acuminate apex, 5.0-5.5 cm broad, erect, black when dry, orbicular or suborbicular, serrate, densely brown wooly toward the base; spikes 3.0-8.0 cm long by ca. 2 cm wide, fasciculate; floral bracts 3.0-3.5 cm long by 1.0-1.5 cm wide, erect, elliptic-obovate, densely brown wooly, soon turning glabrous, margins serrulate, scarcely nerved, papery; sepals to 2.0 cm long by ca. 1.0-1.3 cm wide, apex round to subround, elliptic; petals exceeding the sepals by ca. 1.7 cm, distance between flowers less than 2 mm.

TYPE in the U. S. National Herbarium, Gilmartin 1103 (Holotypus US), paramo, very common, km 63, Ambato-Cuenca, Prov. Tungurahua, Ecuador, 3350 m, 8 August 1965, in bud.

Notes: This new species keys out close to P. ctenorhyncha L. B. Smith but the scape-indumentum is brown not white lanate. Puya fastuosa, the species that this was originally mistaken to be remains a poorly known species represented by the holotype, Weberbauer 4069 (B; photo, F). The inflorescence in the latter is a meter long and its floral bracts are subcoriaceous.

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